A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, June 7. 1709.

NOW, let the Peace go backward or forward, and the *French* King ratifie the Preliminaries, or let them alone, I cannot avoid giving one friendly Hint to our *Jacobites* in *Britain*, and that is this; You see no Scruple made by the King of *France* or any of his Ministry, at giving up you or your Cause.

It is with Regret he abandons *Spain*, and strong Struggles he makes for the Duke of *Bavaria*; nay, the Elector of *Cologn*, a Person of the meaneſt Figure of thoſe that ſeek for Sanctuary under his Power, and perhaps of the leaſt Worth, has yet a Room in his Concern. But for all his Friends in *Scotland*, for all the Martyrs of *Jacobitiſm* in *England*, for that Thing of his own making, call'd a King, and for all his Intereſt and Favourites here, we find them among the firſt Things he gives up, nor do we find them once nam'd among the Things he ſcruples to ratifie, or that are ſo much as call'd Hardſhips in the Treaty.

And is this your Friend, Gentlemen, that you built your Hopes upon? Is this the Honour you have ſo often boaſted of, that was done to your Cauſe to have ſuch a Hero appear for you? —— Behold, when he comes to treat, *Spain* lies near his Heart, *Bavaria*, that has ſacrific'd his Country and Fortunes for him, he is concern'd to reſtore; even the little Elector of *Cologn*, moves his Concern. But for you, YOU *JACOBITES*, in *Britain*, it is plain, he troubles not his Head

Head about you; he looks upon you as a People worth none of his Concern, he has made you his Tools to embroil your own Country, to make us as uneasie as possible, to keep up Parties and Feuds among us; but when he comes to make Peace, you may go the D——l, for any Care he takes of you; he readily sacrifices you to his own Peace, gives you up to GOD's Mercy, and the Goodness of your provok'd Sovereign, and you may e'en go hang your selves *for him.*

Will not this open your Eyes? Will nothing move your Resentment? I am perswaded, this Proceeding of the *French* King will convert innumerable *Jacobites*, that is, it will reconcile them to their Reason, open their Understandings, teach them Wit, and let them see, that till now they have been Fools, have trusted to a weak and a faithless Friend, who abandons them as soon as his own Interest is push'd, and lets them know, that he espous'd them before upon no Ground, but that of his own Advantage. Those who will not be convinc'd by this, I know, nothing more to be said to them, but to leave them to their own Delusions, and let them die in their Politick Errors.

But to return to the *French* King's Refusal of the Preliminary Articles, what shall we say to it? —— Let me examine it a little. *Some say*, the *French* have trick'd us. —That they have gain'd six Weeks Time by it, which was what they wanted, to bring their Army together, to remount their Cavalry, and recruit their Infantry —— That now they have done it, the Misery of Famine having forc'd Men into their Armies, and they are in the Field ready for you, and bid you Defiance —— You have spent a great Part of the Season for Action, and you cannot answer your End of them now —— That you will not venture to enter *France*, with their Army, and all their strong Towns behind you; that if you do, you may chance to repent it— That they will keep their Troops whole and unbroken, will refuse to fight you, and as for the open Country you may do your worst —— They say, *Henry* V. fought the *Spaniard*, when he had not a Town in *Artois*, when *Dourlans* was the *Spanish* Frontier, and *Amiens* was the most advanc'd Town in the *French* Hands— That he will dispute the Ground by Inches with you, and you will not find it so easie a Matter to march to *Paris*, as you talk of, and the like.

Again, *some talk big the other way*; say, *France* has not acted honourably, that they were never sincere in the Treaty at all, that they have only amus'd us, and sounded our Demands: Upon this Head they talk *a la Cavalier*, that the Scabbard is now thrown away, that *Delendum est* is written upon his Kingdom, that the Confederates ought to resent the Treatment of the *French* King, and resolve never to treat with him at all. —That they should push him now to all Extremities; and if he offers to treat again, send him Word, he has no Courage to make War, nor Honour to make Peace; and that therefore they will no more treat with him, but with the States of his Kingdom, or with the *Dauphin* Son —— That they ought to see him dethron'd, and *France* set upon a Foot of Liberty, like its other Neighbour Countries, that the *French* should be prompted to put themselves upon such a Foot of Government, as consists with the Privileges and declar'd Rights of Subjects. In short, that they should pull down Tyranny in *France*, as well as the Exorbitant Power of *France*, and treat him just as a *Gothick* Hero did King *Augustus* in *Saxony*.

Others tell us merrily, The King of *France* is not a fair Trader; that to speak in the learned Language of the University of *Exchange Alley*, you bought the Stock fairly, and now he refuses to transfer —— This would be punish'd at *Jonathan's Coffee-House*, with a General refusing to deal any more with him; for among the Brokers it is, as it is among those lesser Knaves call'd High-way-men, tho' they rob all the Country, they will be true to one another. —Now the King of *France*, it seems, stands in the Room of the Stock-jobber, and much about as honest; and Monsieur *Torcy* was the Sworn Broker. Monsieur *Torcy* sold us the Stock, and made a clear Bargain for the *Bear-Skin*; and now it is done, the King of *France* won't transfer the Stock ——

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And what is to be now? — Why, say the learned Council in the Stock-jobbing Laws, he must pay the Difference—That is, in short he must pay all the Charges of the War that follows, and you must force him to it.

Indeed the King of *France* is not a fair Merchant—And has made a Beat-Skin Bargain—For either he gave Monsieur *Torcy* compleat Powers, or he did not; *if he did not*, it was bantering the Confederates to send him at all, and it is our Business to make him pay for the Jest; *if he did*, then not to ratifie what he gave full Power to act, is selling Stock, and refusing to transfer—And that is not fair— Let *Tom. Sharp*, and *Jeffery Trick* of *Exchange-Alley*, Graduates in the Science of fair Cheating, be Judges.

It may be objected, That Kings and Stock-jobbers are not to be talk'd to; that any thing is fair they please to do; that the buying and selling, treating and arguing with no Design to perform, are natural to both; and that *Exchange-Alley* is but the *French* Court in *Epitome*— That Stock-jobbing is an Abridgment of *French* treating, in which all the old Subtilties of Trick, Cheat, Fore-saying and Back-saying are laudable receiv'd Practices—That it is all a Trick to gain Time, amuse the World, and bring nothing to pass; and that therefore the *French* ought now to be dealt with as a Parcel of People, whose Courage we may trust to, but their Fidelity we cannot.

Others again tell us, The King of *France* is in the right, to refuse the Preliminaries, till he has had another Brush with you; that to sign them now, is to sign them with the utmost Ignominy; that if he fights you again, and is beaten, he may sign them with more Honour than he can now; that then the E. of *Bavaria* and *Cologn*, the Court of St. *Germain* and *Madrid* can no more reproach him with abandoning them, who have been put wholly under his Protection, since he stood by them to the last; that if you were at the Foot of *Pont Oyse*, which in a Sense is to say at the Gates of *Paris*, you would be content with the Terms you have now offer'd; and therefore it is his wisest Course to venture one Brush more with you, let the Consequence be what it will.

A few say, *and those are some of our fast Friends above-nam'd*, that the Hardships put upon *France* in these Preliminaries were intolerable, and that he ought to hazard all, rather than comply; that the ..., Article, *viz.* which says, that the Confederates should be at Liberty to make their further Demands at the general Treaty, was so indefinite, that it left you Room to dethrone and depose the King of *France*, after he had deliver'd up to you all the Strengths, which now make him so formidable, and which in Effect was to leave him stript naked, and then bid him go hang himself.

Some tell us, GOD has harden'd the King of *France*'s Heart, as he did *Pharaoh* King of *Ægypt*, and suffers him to go on in the desperate Defence of his lost Cause to his own Destruction; that he may glorifie Divine Justice upon him, and may revenge upon him the Blood of the many Thousands of People he has destroy'd, and make him a terrible Example of the Anger of Heaven, to all the Tyrants of this Age.

And among these there are some that hope, among whom I own my self to be one, that the Use the Confederates shall make of this Chicanry of *France*, shall be to gain such farther Advantages of *France*, as shall make other Conditions, which could not now be insisted on, easie to obtain; among which I must be allow'd to include the Liberties of *France*, and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion.

Thus I have given you a few of the various Speculations of the Times, about the *French* rejecting the Preliminaries; if any Man asks me, what my own Judgment dictates to me in this Case, I shall say something to it in my next; but in the mean time I would caution the People of this Generation against their usual Extremes.

1. Never talk of entring *France*, dividing his Country, dethroning the Sovereign, Treating at *Paris*, and I know not what, before hand——Let us talk, hope and endeavour for Success, and vigorously pursue the War; but while you promise such vast Things, what you really obtain

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is lessen'd by the disproportion'd Expectation.

2. Let us not be discourag'd, if Things do not run on so fast, as the vulgar Expectations pretend to lead them; but acting with the same Conduct as we have hitherto done, fear not the accomplishing the End of the War with Honour and Safety.

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